Summary 24 May 2017 meeting
Meeting summary: Approved by the GSSB on 29 June 2017

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Participants

Present:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dwight Justice</td>
<td>Labor</td>
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<td>Evan Harvey</td>
<td>Investment Institution</td>
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<td>Judy Kuszewski</td>
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<td>Julia Wilson</td>
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<td>Jürgen Buxbaum</td>
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<td>Kent Swift</td>
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<td>Michel Washer</td>
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<td>Sulema Pioli</td>
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<td>Vadakepatth Nandkumar</td>
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Apologies:

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<tr>
<td>Atilla Yerlikaya</td>
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<td>Daniel Ingram</td>
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<td>Daniel Taillant</td>
<td>Civil Society Organization</td>
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<td>Kirsten Margrethe Hovi</td>
<td>Business Enterprise</td>
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</tbody>
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In attendance:

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Anna Krotova</td>
<td>Manager, Standards Division</td>
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<td>Bastian Buck</td>
<td>Director, Standards Division</td>
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<td>Chelsea Reinhardt</td>
<td>Deputy Director, Standards Division</td>
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<td>Helen Miller</td>
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<td>Manager, Standards Division</td>
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<td>Tina Nybo Jensen</td>
<td>Senior Coordinator, Governance Relations</td>
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List of abbreviations

AOB: Any other business  
GRI: Global Reporting Initiative  
GRI Board: GRI Board of Directors  
GSSB: Global Sustainability Standards Board  
OHS: Occupational health and safety  
PWG: Project working group  
SC: GRI Stakeholder Council  
TC: Technical Committee  
ToR: Terms of Reference
Meeting summary

Please see a list of action and decision items deriving from the meeting on p. 6-8.

Session 1: Welcome and approval of meeting summaries

The GSSB and attending GRI Secretariat staff were welcomed to the meeting and presented with an overview of the meeting agenda. The GSSB unanimously approved the meeting summaries from the 21-22 March in-person meeting and the 26 April virtual meeting with no changes.

Session 2: Updates on staffing and work program

The GSSB was presented with an update on the activities related to the GSSB Work Program 2017-2019 including staffing and budgeting implications.

Session 3: Discuss and approve draft project proposal for the review of GRI 201, GRI 202, and GRI 203

The GSSB was presented with Item 03 – Project Proposal for the Review of GRI 201: Economic Performance, GRI 202: Market Presence, and GRI 203: Indirect Economic Impacts and informed about the developments since the April GSSB meeting. This included the revisions to the project proposal based on feedback received from the GRI Stakeholder Council (SC) and GRI Board of Directors (GRI Board).

The GSSB discussed:

- The importance of including both positive and negative economic impacts, e.g. in relation to the concept of shared value
- The challenge in determining the boundaries between 'social' and 'economic' topics – for example in issues like employment. This is an area where the Technical Committee (TC) can provide recommendations
- That the work of the TC should build upon existing relevant social impact assessment methodologies. This will be reflected within the TC’s Terms of Reference (ToR).

The GSSB approved the project proposal for the review of GRI 201, GRI 202 and GRI 203 with note taken of the discussions during this meeting.
The GSSB members were asked to reach out to the Standards Division offline if they have any further suggestions on organizations or experts to consult as part of the scoping process.

### Session 4: Discuss and approve draft project proposal for Tax and Payments to Governments

The GSSB was presented with Item 04 - Final Project Proposal for Disclosures on Tax and Payments to Government and informed about the developments since the April GSSB meeting including the revisions to the project proposal based on feedback received from the SC and GRI Board.

The GSSB discussed:

- The challenges in drawing a linkage between taxes and socio-economic development, as many other factors (e.g. corruption, allocation) can influence this
- The importance of having strong technical/ accounting representation in the Technical Committee (TC)
- Whether it might also be useful to involve government representatives within TC or the broader expert stakeholder group
- That the TC will be providing recommendations on whether tax-related disclosures should be included in existing GRI Standards or in a new standalone standard
- The potential to use support from companies engaged in the project to help GRI build overall support amongst businesses for this effort.

The GSSB agreed to approve the project proposal for Tax and Payments to Governments.

The Standards Division recommended to keep the TC small and focused, but to engage a broader network of issue experts and interested parties ahead of any public comment period. Based on feedback received from the GSSB, the SC, and the GRI Board the GSSB was presented with a suggested TC Composition of a total of 6-9 positions to represent key views.

The GSSB members were asked to provide additional recommendations offline and the Standards Division will proceed to consolidate the feedback.

The GSSB further approved the Standards Divisions proposed process for appointing TC members.

### Session 5: Discuss and approve draft project proposal on the review of GRI's Human Rights-related Standards

The GSSB was presented with Item 05 - Final Project Proposal for the Review of GRI's Human Rights-related Standards and informed about the developments since the April GSSB meeting, including the revisions to the project proposal based on feedback received from the SC and GRI Board.

The GSSB discussed:
• The Standards should clarify that businesses have a responsibility to respect all internationally recognized human rights. It is alright for the GRI Standards to cover specific human rights, provided this does not exclude the obligation of companies to report on all their salient human rights risks.
• The importance of adequately using and linking key concepts and terms in the UNGP (e.g., ‘salience’ and ‘due diligence’).
• The TC should consider the different human rights issues and challenges across geographical locations.
• The TC should consider the inclusion of Humanitarian Law in this review process.

The GSSB approved the project proposal for the review of GRI’s Human Rights-related Standards with note taken of the discussions during this meeting.

Following this, the Standards Division presented the proposed viewpoints to be represented in an ad hoc TC. The Division recommended to keep the TC small and focused, with a maximum of 8 seats, but to engage a broader network of issue experts and interested parties ahead of any public comment period.

The GSSB provided specific recommendations related to the proposed viewpoints to include in the TC:
• Replace “Affected Stakeholders” with “Rights-holders”.
• Include indigenous people under the category “Rights-holders”.
• Clarify the profile of “Information Users”, as this category includes other types of stakeholders besides investors.
• The majority of the TC members should be familiar with the UNGP.
• Consider including more than one position representing Civil Society Organizations.

The GSSB members were asked to provide additional recommendations offline and the Standards Division will proceed to consolidate the feedback and provide a new proposed composition in time for the next GSSB meeting.

Session 6: Update on GRI 303: Water and GRI 403: Occupational Health and Safety reviews

The GSSB was presented with an overview of the progress to date of the Project Working Groups (PWGs) on GRI 303: Water and GRI 403: Occupational Health and Safety (OHS). The Standards Division confirmed that the final exposure drafts for public comments will be shared with the GSSB on 5 July 2017 with anticipated approval during the GSSB virtual meeting on 19 July 2017.

The GSSB approved the Standards Division proposal for a 60-day public comment period for the exposure drafts of GRI 303: Water and GRI 403: OHS.

Further, the GSSB was briefed on the initial recommendations from the PWG on GRI 303: Water following their in-person meeting on 18-19 May 2017. Due to time constraints, it was agreed that
the GSSB receives an offline update on the PWG on GRI 403: OHS following their in-person meeting on 30-31 May 2017.

Session 7: AOB

Due to time constraints, the discussion on Item 06 - Summary of technical questions on the GRI Standards was deferred to the next GSSB meeting. The meeting was closed at 15.00 CEST.

Decisions and Action Items

DECISIONS

Session 1:

GSSB Decision 2017.10 The GSSB approved the summary of the in-person meeting held 21-22 March with no further changes.

GSSB Decision 2017.11 The GSSB approved the summary of the meeting held 26 April with no further changes.

The GSSB supported the decisions by consensus.

Session 3:

GSSB Decision 2017.12 The GSSB approved the project proposal for the review of GRI 201, GRI 202 and GRI 203 with note taken of the discussions reflected in this meeting summary.

The GSSB supported the decision by consensus.

Session 4:

GSSB Decision 2017.13 The GSSB approved the project proposal for Tax and Payments to Governments.

GSSB Decision 2017.14 The GSSB approved the proposed process for appointing the TC members.

The GSSB supported the decisions by consensus.

Session 5:

GSSB Decision 2017.15 The GSSB approved the project proposal for the review of GRI’s Human Rights-related Standards with note taken of the discussions during this meeting.

The GSSB supported the decision by consensus.

Session 6:

GSSB Decision 2017.16 The GSSB approved a 60-day public comment period for the exposure drafts of GRI 303: Water and GRI 403: OHS.
The GSSB supported the decision by consensus.

**ACTIONS**

**Standards Division:**

**Session 4:**
- Follow up with individual GSSB members on the discussion on Government representation on the TC on Taxes and Payments to Governments.

**Session 6:**
- Provide an offline update on the PWG on GRI 403: OHS following their in-person meeting on 30-31 May 2017.

**GSSB members:**

**Session 3:**
- Contact the Standards Division offline if they have any further suggestions on organizations or experts to consult as part of the scoping process for the review of GRI 201, GRI 202, and GRI 203.

**Session 4 and 5:**
- Contact the Standards Division offline if they have any recommendations related to the composition of the TCs on respectively Tax and Payments to Governments and the review of the Human Rights-related Standards.